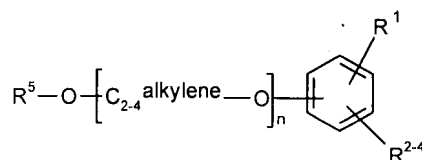


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A monomer which comprises a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit capable of free radical polymerization wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain is protected with a poly-aryl methane protecting group.

2. (previously presented): A monomer of formula (1)



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ethylene group;

R²⁻⁴ are independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, halogen, or hydrocarbyloxy;

R⁵ is a poly-aryl methane protecting group; and

n is 2 to 10.

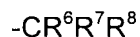
3. (original): A monomer according to Claim 2 wherein R¹ is a CH=CH₂, CH=CHCH₃, or C(CH₃)=CH₂ group.

4. (original): A monomer according to any of Claims 2 or 3 wherein [-C₂₋₄alkylene-O-]_n is [-CH₂CH₂O-]_n, [-CH₂CH(CH₃)O-]_n, [-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂O-]_n or [-CH₂CH(C₂H₅)O-]_n

5. (previously presented): A monomer according to Claim 2 wherein R²⁻⁴ are hydrogen.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented): A monomer according to Claim 2 wherein R⁵ is a poly-aryl methane protecting group of formula:



wherein:

R⁶ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted aryl group; and R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently optionally substituted aryl groups, or R⁷ & R⁸ are optionally substituted aryl groups which may be linked to form an optionally substituted ring

8. (previously presented): A monomer according to Claim 1 wherein the poly-aryl methane protecting group is an optionally substituted trityl group.

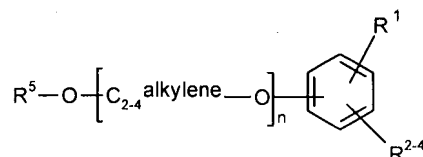
9. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a polymer support comprising free radical polymerisation of a monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain is protected with a poly-aryl methane protecting group, under conditions to produce cross-linking.

10. (previously presented): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of one or more one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of styrenes, esters of acrylic acid and esters of (meth)acrylic acid, and acrylamides.

11. (previously presented): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of one or more cross linking monomers, and one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of styrenes, esters of acrylic acid and esters of (meth)acrylic acid, and acrylamides.

12. (original): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of divinyl benzene, and styrene.

13. (previously presented): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is a monomer of formula (1)



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ethylene group;

R²⁻⁴ are independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, halogen, or hydrocarbyloxy;

R⁵ is a poly-aryl methane protecting group; and

n is 2 to 10.

14. (currently amended): A polymer support which comprises protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chains attached to a cross-linked polymer obtained by free radical polymerization wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chains are protected with a poly-aryl methane protecting group.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented): A polymer support according to Claim 14 wherein the poly-aryl methane protecting group is an optionally substituted trityl group.

17. (previously presented): A polymer support obtained by the process of Claim 9.

18. (previously presented): A process for solid phase organic synthesis which comprises deprotecting a protected solid support, and performing solid phase organic synthesis on the deprotected solid support, wherein the protected solid support is a polymer support according to Claim 14.

19. (previously presented): A process according to claim 10, wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerizable unit is copolymerized in the presence of one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene, hydroxystyrene, methoxystyrene, methylstyrene, hydroxymethylstyrene, chloromethylstyrene, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, N-methyl acrylamide and N-methylol(meth)acrylamide.